



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mixed, mostly at least steady. Retail demand was slow to fair, at times moderate for retail ads; food service was light to good. Supplies were in good balance to well cleared. Processing schedules were reduced with plant closures for tomorrow's New Years Day holiday. In the parts structure, wings were adequate to tight and had the strongest movement. The remaining items were at least adequate or available with mixed interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at desirable to heavy weights. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), for the week ending 27-Dec-03, broiler egg sets were up 2% and chick placements were up 3% when compared to the previous year. Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for marketing during the week ending 06-Feb-2004 is estimated at 155.6 million head.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 69.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 62.00 cents last year on December 31, 2002.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	198.50
BREASTS - B/S	167.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	88.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	92.00
LEG QUARTERS	30.50
WINGS	105.00

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was at least steady. Pre-holiday demand was fair to moderate, best for active retail ads and fast food promotions, with a bright outlook for first of the month. Supplies were in balance to closely cleared. Processing plants were part time with most plants down tomorrow, and a few running Saturday schedules. In the parts structure, wings were close to short of an active call. Breast items were readily available, and dark meat was sufficient. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers ranged fair to fairly good. Offerings of all sizes were in very close balance and clearing under normal premiums. Movement through retail and distributive channels was fair to moderate. The market tone was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, breast items were available and discounted to clear. Dark meat cuts were generally sufficient. Wings were tight.

MIDWEST Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment was mostly steady. Offerings were light for the limited trade interest. Retail demand was mostly slow with features providing best activity. Features noted in Chicago on whole birds at 68 and 69 cents and for boneless skinless breasts \$1.69 to \$1.88. Food service was in a full range, light to good for the New Years holiday. Floor stocks were adequate. Weights were desirable to instances heavy. Floor stocks adequate to ample. Supplies of wings were tight, balance of parts items adequate. The market tone was fully steady to firm on wings, and generally steady on balance of items.

WESTERN The market tone was steady. Offerings were adequate. Buying activity was at moderate. Retailer demand was fairly good overall best to cover features in progress. Floor stocks in fairly good balance.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES WEEK ENDING 12/27/03	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR</u>
EGGS SET	205,370	201,018	+02
CHICKS PLACED	167,849	162,414	+03

Broiler Eggs Set In 19 Selected States Up 2 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 205 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 27, 2003. This was up 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up 3 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 168 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 27, 2003. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through December 27, 2003 were 8.65 billion, down slightly from the same period a year earlier.

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for the marketing during the week ending 6-Feb-04 is estimated at 155.6 million head. This compares to 155.1 million head the previous week and to 153.8 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 152.2 million head and the composite weighted average price was 60.49cents per pound.

DECEMBER 30, 2003

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 31, 2003

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

POUNDS					POUNDS				
ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	872	132.00-223.00	135-137	136.50	BREAST - B/S	822	134.00-223.00	135-138	136.72
TENDERLOINS	241	140.00-216.00	140-147	149.85	TENDERLOINS	213	140.00-216.00	140-147	150.25
BREAST - LINE RUN	97	80.00-93.00	83-84	84.05	BREAST - LINE RUN	83	82.00-93.00	82-84	83.27
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	96	35.00-50.00	35-37	36.80	LEGS	103	35.00-50.00	35-37	37.72
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	550	25.00-29.00	25-26	25.58	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	550	25.00-29.00	25-26	25.58
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,055	28.00-32.00	29-31	29.61	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	935	29.00-32.00	29-31	29.81
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	99.00-107.00	99-101	101.31	WINGS (WHOLE)	295	99.00-107.00	100-103	102.66
WINGS (CUT)	476	110.00-119.00	110-115	113.47	WINGS (CUT)	473	112.00-120.00	112-117	115.36
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
51.00 - 56.00	52.79	49.50 - 55.50	51.93	52.60

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity was fair to moderate as dealers attempted to enter the holiday with closely cleared floor stocks. Offerings of breast items remained available. Dark meat cuts were at least sufficient. Wings were short of full needs. Retail and distributive draw ranged fair to fairly good. The market tone was firm on wings, cautious on breast items and about steady on the balance.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT

QUANTITIES, DECEMBER 30, 2003

DECEMBER 31, 2003

CURRENT NEG				WTD	CURRENT NEG				WTD
ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	
BREAST - B/S	145	146.91	552,096		BREAST - B/S	145	144.81	582,250	
TENDERLOINS	145	142.70	66,030		TENDERLOINS	145	144.36	123,240	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	74-75	81.62	135,440		BREAST - WITH RIBS	74-75	78.05	123,140	
BREAST - LINE RUN	74	71.42	92,400		BREAST - LINE RUN	74	72.45	128,920	
LEGS	38-39	36.81	325,240		LEGS	38-39	36.94	285,000	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	29-30	29.44	312,389		LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	29-30	29.80	389,740	
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	39.37	77,440		DRUMSTICKS	36-37	36.93	120,420	
THIGHS	35-36	41.74	63,200		THIGHS	35-36	38.71	47,980	
B/S THIGHS	85-86	87.00	96,800		B/S THIGHS	85-86	90.50	65,200	
WINGS (WHOLE)	95-96	100.41	155,400		WINGS (WHOLE)	97-98	97.24	112,840	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.92	21,800		BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.81	38,120	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	38.23	5,550		LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	33.90	19,440	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	69.72	18,810		GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	69.44	25,120	

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
	12/31	12/30	12/29	12/26	12/29	12/26	12/24	12/22		
ALA	3,550	4,012	3,750	4,806	5.35	5.05	1,575	5.18		
ARK	4,825	5,411	5,468	5,172	5.14	5.22	2,258	5.08		
DELMARVA	1,616	2,253	2,331	3,039	5.58	5.75	949	5.54		
KY-LA-TN	1,841	2,005	1,991	1,881	5.09	4.89	991	4.96		
MISS	2,745	3,101	3,112	3,073	5.49	5.38	1,858	5.47		
NC	2,164	2,445	2,389	2,921	6.46	6.50	1,221	6.29		
TEXAS	2,449	245	2,453	2,983	5.00	4.97	0	5.00		
TOTAL	19,190	19,472	21,494	23,875	5.40	5.37	8,852	5.32		
MON-WED	59,706(A)						51,730(A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 12/31 is estimated to be 28,710,000 up 116.1 percent from a week ago and up 1422.3 percent from a year ago. (Last week 13,283,000; last year 1,886,000) Texas figures for 12/29 are estimates.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	91-97
ROASTERS 4# & UP	81-95
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	60-63
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY**DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	99-100
	DRY PACK	101-103
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	105
	DRY PACK	89-105
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91
	DRY PACK	89
DUCKS		152-175

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 03-JAN-03

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	01/03/03 (1)	12/27/03
THOUSAND HEAD		
BRO-FRY	133,187 (2)	116,078
LT HENS	1,143	820
HVY HENS	930	698
CHECK TOTAL	135,260	117,596

(1) ESTIMATED

(2) The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 03-Jan-04 is 147.1 million head compared to 128.3 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 133.5 million head or 13.6 million more than estimated available. For week of 10-Jan-04 the estimated available is 151.1 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS
(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 12/29/03	114,342	44,646
AM 12/01/03	110,555	45,473
CHG	3,787	-827
PCT CHG	3	-2

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/29/03	12/22/03	12/30/02	12/29/03	12/22/03	12/30/02
PACIFIC COAST	8,468	10,866	8,079	3,518	3,501	4,150
LOS ANGELES	396	401	1,370	1,684	1,714	3,588

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 29, 2003

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		58-65
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	66-76

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 12/30/03

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW HIGH AVG				LOW HIGH AVG		
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.35	1.25	.61	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	1.00	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	.75	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	2.00	4.75	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	.55	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	4.50	-
BROILERS lb.	-	.65	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	4.25	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.00	2.75	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.90	1.20	1.06	ROOSTERS ea.	3.00	8.25	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	1.20	1.70	1.47	DUCKS ea.	2.50	10.50	-
RABBITS lb.	.70	1.65	1.40	RABBITS ea.	1.00	3.75	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	1.75	3.00	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	5.00	5.25	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	3.25	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-				
TOTAL COOPS	96						

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending December 24, 2003

Whole	Legs	Necks,Back	Livers/
Chickens	Breasts	w/ Thighs	&Wings
Gizzards	Hens		

REPORT NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained seasonal and was sufficient in keeping available seller offerings in good balance to well cleared. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were sharply reduced in advance of the holiday and were very light. Plants were scheduled to close Thursday to observe the entry of the New Year, and several are scheduled to operate on Saturday. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 64 to 74 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady. In the parts complex, Wings were short of immediate needs. Other items were generally adequate.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

RANGE	BRANDED
	U.S. GRADE A
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	61-76
NO. OF BOXES	67.19
	7,619

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

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